



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/)

For Immediate Release  
Dec. 5, 2003

Contact: Kim Erdelyi  
517-373-1801

## **Sen. Hardiman honors work of Grand Rapids and Right Place leaders**

**Grand Rapids** — Sen. Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood) today recognized the years of effort the city of Grand Rapids and The Right Place Inc. officials have spent revitalizing the city and its business climate.

Hardiman presented a Senate tribute to Birgit Klohs of The Right Place Inc., a greater Grand Rapids economic development agency, and Grand Rapids Mayor John Logie before area government and business leaders.

“Grand Rapids city leaders and Right Place officials have set the pace for cities across Michigan for urban renewal,” Hardiman said. “Their effort has made this area better by rejuvenating Grand Rapids and allowing the region to prosper.”

In Grand Rapids alone, since 1998, brownfield redevelopment has resulted in \$131.5 million in investment and 867 jobs. Renaissance Zone development since 1997 has resulted in \$102 million and 954 jobs.

The partnership between The Right Place and Grand Rapids began in 1995. Since then, business leaders have used the relationship to realize their economic dreams.

The mission of Right Place is “to promote economic growth in the areas of quality employment, productivity and technology in Greater Grand Rapids by developing jobs through leading business expansion, retention and attraction efforts.”

Redeveloping brownfields and improving Michigan’s business climate continue to be important issues dealt with by the Republican JOBS plan — Job Opportunities for Business Success. Parts of the nine-point legislative package include tax relief for the struggling tool and die industry, creation of manufacturing and small-business czars and extension of the Michigan Economic Growth Authority.

Since its introduction in late October, the Senate has taken action on eight of the nine points in the plan.

###

**Photos of this event will be available online after 5 p.m. at**

**[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire)**